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I am starting a new manufacturing business. What permits may I need from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)?

There are several resources to assist companies in determining the permits that may be needed from DEQ.

PERMIT INFORMATION CHECKLIST:

An initial evaluation can be done through use of the [permit information checklist](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-permits-egp3580.pdf) found at www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-permits-egp3580.pdf. The checklist contains "yes" and "no" questions to help identify the types of activities at the proposed facility that may require permits from the DEQ.

If you need more information about a specific permit program, then refer to the relevant chapter of the [DEQ Permit and Licensing Requirements Guidebook](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-permits-permitguidebook.pdf) found at www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-permits-permitguidebook.pdf.

Contact the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278 if a hard copy is necessary. In addition, if you have any questions as you go through the permit information checklist, you can call the Environmental Assistance Center and ask for a program specialist. You can also contact the program directly (phone numbers are included on the page to assist in this regard).

MICHIGAN MANUFACTURERS' GUIDEBOOK:

Another excellent reference is the [Michigan Manufacturers' Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3310_4148-15820--,00.html). This guidebook was written by the DEQ, in cooperation with the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) to assist manufacturers with regulations. The 2006 guidebook can be found online at www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3310_4148-15820--,00.html.

We have received some very positive feedback from Michigan manufacturers as to the usefulness of this desk reference. If you would like hard copy, you can purchase a guidebook for \$20 plus tax and shipping. A CD version is also available for \$3 plus tax and shipping. An order form can be found at the site above, or you can contact the Environmental Assistance Center 800-662-9278 for help with the order.

MITAPS:

Michigan Timely Application and Permit Service ([MiTAPS](#)) provides a one-stop shop for businesses to be able to determine what permits are needed to do business in Michigan — regardless of the department or agency. Businesses are able to apply for the needed permits online and track the status of the permit while it is being processed. MiTAPS provides information on documentation needed to complete the permit processing, the ability to submit electronic documents, and the ability to pay fees online. MiTAPS is a new service that has yet to expand to all permits offered by each agency. The initial implementation of MiTAPS focuses on

manufacturing businesses, and most DEQ permits needed by manufacturers are available through this service. However, it is recommended new businesses also consult the DEQ Permit Information Checklist (especially associated with construction activities) for identification of permit programs that may not be accessible through the early implementation of MITAPs.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT:

Various cities work with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Brownfield Redevelopment Grant Program. If the site under consideration is a brownfield (old industrial site or site of environmental contamination), then you may want to consider calling the city to investigate incentives in this regard. When calling a city, ask whether they have a Brownfield Authority or similar office.

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

You may want to also consider contacting the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to see whether they offer any incentives and counseling services for the new venture. They may also be able to assist with other permits that may be necessary through other executive departments within the State of Michigan. Customer Service can be reached at 517-373-9808. They also have a chat function through the Web at www.michigan.org/medc. In addition, small business resources can be obtained from the Small Business Resource Center, 800-946-6829 or Email at MEDCServices@michigan.org.

ONCE YOU GET SETTLED:

Once a facility gets settled in Michigan, they may want to learn about DEQ's other valuable business assistance programs, including: [Small Business Pollution Prevention Loan Program](#), [Environmental Management System Guidance](#), [Clean Corporate Citizen](#), [Retired Engineer Technical Assistance Program](#) (free, non-regulatory and confidential pollution prevention audits), and the [Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership](#).